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MSGNO 69 (MIXX) *12/12/87* *01:10:22.9.4*
 ZCZC 06:07:38Z (MC)
 EMI DTG : 87121123180241

SECRET

MILITARY

ACTION: NONE INFO: DOMDS, DONOVA, INTELMIL, ODPB-B, ODPD-D,
 ODPN-N, ODPS-S, OPCTR/USSR, RF, SOV/ES/CI, SOV/RP/EUR, FILE, SE/IO,
 SE/USSR, OIA/CFAP1, (4/W)

87 7165446 MSR

TOR: 120413Z DEC 87

NC 7165446

RUEKJCS 6525

RR RUEAIIA
 DE RUEKJCS #6525 3460357
 ZNY SSSSS
 RUEHFB T FBI WASHINGTON DC
 RULYSCC T MAG FOURTEEN
 R 112050Z DEC 87
 FM DIA WASHINGTON DC//JSI-7//
 TO DIACURINTEL
 AIG 7011
 AIG 7046
 AIG 7032

RUDODEA/303 TMW RAF MOLESWORTH UK//DOXI//
 RUQVAAK/6948ESS KELLY AFB TX
 RUWTNFA/CDRUSAFIVE FT SAM HOUSTON TX //RED GP//
 RHCCTWO/CDR USATWO FT GILLEM GA
 RUWJBMA/4513ATTG NELLIS AFB NV
 RUVMBJA/176COMPG KULIS ANG BASE AK
 RUCLDEA/EW MGT DIV ROBINS AFB GA
 RUWDTAA/CONNAVSPECWARCOM CORONADO CA

XMT

BT

EZ1:

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EZ2:

SERIAL:

SUBJ: USSR: ARTILLERY DEVELOPMENT. (U)

DOI: 11 DEC 87 (AS OF 1420 EST)

TEXT: 1. (S/WN/NF) A NEW TOWED ARTILLERY WEAPON, PROBABLY IN THE
 SOVIET 152-MM GUN-HOWITZER FAMILY, HAS BEEN DEPLOYED IN THE WESTERN
 USSR.

2. (S/WN/NF) THIS WEAPON IS DISTINGUISHED BY AN EXTENDED LENGTH
 BARREL. THE CANNON ASSEMBLY IS 8.1 METERS LONG. IT HAS BEEN NOTED
 IN THREE GARRISONS OF THE BALTIC, BELORUSSIAN, AND CARPATHIAN
 MILITARY DISTRICTS AT KLOOGA (BE 0153CA0316), OSIPOVICH (BE 0168-
 00500), AND [REDACTED] RESPECTIVELY. THE UNIT
 DEPLOYMENTS TOTAL MORE THAN 200 WEAPONS ORGANIZED INTO 18 TO 24
 BATTALIONS AT 3 DIFFERENT ECHELONS.

3. (S/WN/NF) OF THE WEAPONS OBSERVED THUS FAR, THOSE IN THE BALTIC

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or

D20 M

deployed in Western USSR

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25X1

25X1

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MD ARE AT ARMY LEVEL, THE GUNS IN THE BELORUSSIAN MD ARE AT DISTRICT OR FRONT LEVEL, AND THE NEWLY EQUIPPED CARPATHIAN MD UNITS ARE AT DIVISION LEVEL. ORGANIZATIONS WITH THIS WEAPON WERE PREVIOUSLY EQUIPPED WITH 152-MM D-1 OR D-20 TOWED ARTILLERY.

4. (S/WN/NF) COMMENT: THE UNIDENTIFIED ARTILLERY PIECE IS ASSESSED TO BE A GUN-HOWITZER WITH THE CAPABILITY OF EFFECTIVE DIRECT OR INDIRECT FIRE SUPPORT. ITS PRODUCTION COSTS WILL BE MUCH LESS THAN THE 152-MM SELF-PROPELLED 2S3 OR 2S5. IT PROBABLY COMBINES MANY OF THE FEATURES DISTINGUISHING THE FAMILY OF NEWER 152-MM WEAPONS NOW WITH THE WARSAW PACT ARMIES.

5. (S/WN/NF) WHETHER THIS WEAPON WAS MANUFACTURED IN THE USSR OR WHETHER IT IS A PRODUCT OF ONE OF THE NON-SOVIET WARSAW PACT STATES IS UNCERTAIN. REGARDLESS, THIS VERSATILE ARTILLERY PIECE DEMONSTRATES THE CONTINUING SOVIET COMMITMENT TO FIELD MODERN AND EFFECTIVE GROUND COMBAT FORCES AGAINST THE EUROPEAN CENTRAL FRONT. AN INTERIM DESIGNATION OF THE SOVIET 152-MM (?) TOWED GUN-HOWITZER, ML987, HAS BEEN PROPOSED FOR THIS PIECE.

PREP:

DECL: OADR

END OF MESSAGE

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